

Supplemental Examiner's Amendment

Drawings Objection

The previous objection to the drawings is withdrawn

1. Claims 1-16,19-26 and 28-29 are allowed.
2. **Claims 17-18 and 27 are canceled**
3. Change to **Title: --CREATION OF A CHAT ROOM FOR TELEVISION NETWORK--**

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-16,19-26 and 28-29 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or *Toro Co. v. White Consolidated Industries Inc.*, 199 F.3d 1295, 1301, 53 USPQ2d 1065, 1069 (Fed. Cir. 1999) none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims, specifically a trigger device which is programmed to activate itself at the occurrence of an event and automatically sends a request for creation of a chat room to the chat room creation device, wherein a subscriber associated with a decoder configured to receive and display chat messages is one of a passive and an active subscriber to the chat room with functionality to switch between the passive and the active subscriber, wherein the passive subscriber is not connected to the chat room using a return link and visualizes chat room discussions on the decoder, wherein visualizing comprises: buffering the chat room discussions in a buffer for delayed broadcast, formatting the chat room discussions for broadcast, when the buffer becomes

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full, inserting the chat room discussions into a table for broadcast to the decoder, and broadcasting the chat room discussions to the decoder as part of a digital bundle comprising a service related to the chat room, and wherein the active subscriber is directly connected to the chat room via a return link as disclosed in independent claim 1 of the instant application (as defined at pages 1-4, paragraph [0012-0082] of the specification of the instant application).

5. A practical application for the invention is disclosed on pages 3-6, paragraphs [0070-0150]: '[0074] for exemplary purposes, ...triggering a request for creation of a chat room may be to detect a determined information occurring in the contents provided by the digital television operator instead or in addition to the triggering of the timer. The determined information may for example be a message, a picture, a sound or any other signal contained in the contents provided to the digital television operator. Such an alternative method of triggering enables for example to detect a picture inserted by the content provider at the beginning of a television programme and hence to detect the beginning of the programme broadcast. The detection of the picture triggers a request for creation of a chat room. Following the request a procedure for notifying of the decoders is initiated. The determined information may be related to an event contained in the list of events.

6. When taken in context the claim(s) as a whole was/were not uncovered in the prior art i.e., the dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon an allowable independent claim.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments regarding Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK O. AFOLABI whose telephone number is (571) 270-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between (8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NATHAN FLYNN can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M.O.A/

MARK O. AFOLABI

Examiner Art Unit 2454

/NATHAN FLYNN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2454